



\*Minutes subject to approval by the NC Courts Commission at the next meeting

The North Carolina Courts Commission met on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the NC Judicial Center (901 Corporate Center Dr. Raleigh).

### **Call to Order**

The Chair, Rep. Joe John, called the meeting to order, welcomed members of the Commission as well as members of the public present, and laid forth the agenda for the meeting.

### **Barriers to Re-Entry Presentations**

Daryl Atkinson, *Co-Director, Forward Justice*, spoke on various barriers to successfully re-entering the community that released convicted persons face including difficulty gaining employment.

John Rubin, *Albert Coates Professor of Public Law and Government, UNC School of Government*, provided an academic perspective on numerous barriers to re-entry faced by recently released convicted persons.

Daniel Bowes, *Senior Attorney, NC Justice Center*, further spoke on barriers to re-entry, including proposed solutions to problems created by third-party mugshot websites.

### **Pretrial Release for Criminal Defendants**

The Hon. Regan Miller, *Chief District Court Judge, Mecklenburg County*, gave a thorough presentation on the changes in Mecklenburg County's bond policies, including the implementation of a risk assessment, as well as reasons for the changes.

The Hon. Orlando Hudson, *Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Durham County*, spoke about changes in Durham County's bond policies (both new and old bond policies can be found on the previous page).

Special Deputy Attorney General Jasmine McGhee skyped in via video-chat to speak on efforts by the Department of Justice to encourage changes to bond policies throughout the state on a county-by-county basis.

### **Commission Discussion**

Rep. John opened the floor for discussion among Commission members and appointed a subcommittee to study issues related to barriers to re-entry. Bert Kemp, Pitt County Public Defender, was appointed chair of the subcommittee and Judge Donna Stroud, Lauren McAndrew, District Attorney Locke Bell, Tim Lea, and Rep. Marcia Morey will serve on the subcommittee.

Rep. John also called on Judge Athena Brooks, Chair of the Subcommittee on Pre-Trial Release to present findings and recommendations of the subcommittee at the next meeting and charged commission members to bring suggestions as to any proposed further action by the Commission on the subject.

### **Adjournment and Future Commission Meetings**

Rep. John adjourned the meeting with the tentative plan to reconvene on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.